

CHANNELS

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
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EMBASSY REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT FATHER THANH DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT, IF AT ALL.

THESE LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS ARE BEING PROVOKED BY THE SAME SMALL NUMBER OF POLITICAL AGITATORS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. UP TO NOW, THE POLICE HAVE REACTED TO THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS WITH RESTRAINT--AN APPROACH THAT HAS CREATED NO MARTYRS AND HELPED TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD. PRESIDENT THIEU, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE DETERMINED TO SHUT OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS IN SAIGON DURING THE NATIONAL DAY PERIOD AND MAY NOW BE ADOPTING A TOUGHER APPROACH. CENTRAL SAIGON HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF AND LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE HAVE BEEN POSTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THIS MASSIVE POLICE PRESENCE APPEARS TO BE CONTRIBUTING TO HIGHLY EXAGGERATED PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. E2 IMPDET.

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